

# Connection

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Larry Monroe



This will be my last Connection article as President and CEO. As announced in early August, I am retiring at year-end. I ask your indulgence as this article will be different from others. I have some reflections I would like to share.

People retire for many different reasons. Some retire earlier than others, again, for many different reasons. The decision to retire was not an easy one for me to make. Serving as CEO of Christian Village Communities has been the most rewarding twelve years of my working life. Having a role in the development and growth of our leadership team has been a joy. I once told the Board of Directors that one of the best gifts I can give them is the gift of succession. I considered it to be one of my primary responsibilities to build a team that could carry on well in my absence. I am pleased to say, mission accomplished on this front. What brought me to the conclusion that I should retire was pondering how important the future years will be for my sweet bride Kathy and me. With God's blessing, we want to make those years the very best they can be.

Christian Village Communities has become such a key part of my life. I feel fortunate to have finished my working years loving what I do. I have seen mission expansion for CVC. For instance, the adding of Christian Village Hospice to our continuum of care has been a huge blessing to our residents, their families and our team members.

I'm pleased that CVC continues its commitment to providing financial subsidy for qualifying residents in our healthcare centers. Benevolent care was at the heart of our ministry when it began in 1960 under the name of The Christian Benevolent Association of Greater Cincinnati (CBA). I am thankful for the donors who stand with us in financial support, making it possible for the life changing mission of financial benevolence to continue. There is much more work to be done on this front, and more donors will be needed in the future to sustain this critical aspect of the CVC ministry.

I have been asked what I consider to be a crowning achievement for my tenure as CEO. When I interviewed for the job with the search committee of the Board of Directors in the summer of 2012 my background included no experience in our industry. I offered a Christian faith since the age of 10, life-long affiliation with our founding church movement, fundraising experience and my general business leadership and management experience. I believe what uniquely equipped me to lead CVC at this time in our history has been the combination of those attributes.

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When I think of achievements, my thoughts go to my team. I owe so much gratitude to every team leader who patiently helped their boss learn the fundamentals of our business. Together we learned how to best lead CVC to some of the finest outcomes of our 60-plus year history. God blessed our commitment to Him, to each other, our unwavering focus on running the business with world-class excellence, and a whole lot of hard work!

The late Almond (Bud) Smith served CBA as its first finance manager in the early years of our ministry. The money had to be raised to build the organization, and to construct our first retirement community, The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. I recall Bud telling me, "Here I was with all those preachers, sharing their grand dreams of what CBA was going to be and do, and what they wanted to build, and it was left to me to remind them that we had 500 bucks in the checking account! Well, those preachers taught me a thing or two about faith, and I taught them a thing or two about finances and together we made a great team." A book could be written about this basic premise, and perhaps there has been. I consider among my most cherished achievements as CEO to be leaving CVC on solid financial footing, with a very bright future. What I'm particularly proud of is that this happened not at the cost of, but in tandem with considerable mission expansion.

I want to share a few words about our incoming CEO, Vickie Brashear. Very early in my tenure at CVC as I was building my team, I knew that I needed a very talented CFO to help me accomplish the task set before me. I prayed fervently that God would reveal to us an extraordinary finance mind and leader. From the day I first had lunch with Vickie, I sensed her heart for the Lord. I could tell she had a close relationship with Jesus.

Being successful in financial management alone was not enough for Vickie. She needed to serve a ministry where her gifts and abilities would advance a cause bigger than her own needs for career success, and she had a passion for serving others in Jesus' name. Vickie's succeeding me as CEO following her ten years of exemplary service to CVC as our CFO is exciting and gives me peace of mind knowing we will be in very good hands as I leave my post.

Although my time as CEO ends on December 31, 2024, at the request of the Board of Directors and Vickie I will continue to serve on a part-time basis throughout 2025. I will assist with specific projects, including our capital projects, editing our publications, helping with fundraising and whatever else Vickie asks me to do! All this is to say, I will be around for another year following my CEO departure, and I look forward to seeing some of you in the future.

Thank you for the prayers and encouragement that undergirded my leadership, brightened this CEO's path and lightened the load. I will leave my post with a prayer in my heart that the support afforded me will continue for Vickie, her team, our residents and patients, and our Board of Directors.

God's hand has been upon the ministry of Christian Village Communities since its beginning. I have witnessed Him move in ways that have literally taken me to my knees. I believe if the leadership at CVC always puts God first, if we run our business in ways that honor Him and point others to Jesus, He will continue His blessings upon our labors.

For Christ and CVC! ✝



## Christian Village Hospice

Extraordinary End-of-Life Care

By Heather Carter, LSW, LNHA, Hospice Administrator



Christian Village Hospice provides services for a patient and their family when there is a terminal diagnosis and a projected life expectancy of six months or less. Care includes visits from nursing staff, a Social Worker and a Chaplain. Additionally, ongoing education is provided regarding the disease, end-of-life process and medications.

However, it is important to also know that hospice provides additional support in a variety of ways to help benefit the patients and their families. The care provided is unique and individual, therefore it's critical that the hospice team learn about our patients. Knowing their history, personal likes and dislikes or little things that bring them joy helps provide better care and build special bonds between the patient and hospice team members.

Celebrating our patients and their special events is important, whether it be a birthday, anniversary or other special event. Our team provides a birthday "sweet" treat and a card signed by all the team members. Similarly, on wedding anniversaries we help the patient and spouse (if living) to celebrate their special day.

Honoring our veterans is also important to our team. Veterans receive recognition through a certificate and a commemorative coin presented with their family present on Veteran's Day. Volunteers provide remarkable benefit to our hospice program. We currently have 16 trained volunteers. The volunteers provide pet visits, read Scripture and daily devotions, listen to music, take residents on walks and assist with activities they enjoy. It is remarkable to watch the bond that builds between the volunteer, the patient, and their family, and it truly benefits the patient's overall well-being.

CVH provides bereavement services for the patient's families with cards, letters and phone calls throughout 13 months following their loved one's passing. This also includes grief support groups, 1:1 grief counseling, and Memorial Services. We also send handwritten cards to families to recognize the first birthday, anniversary and Christmas since their loved one's passing. It is important that we acknowledge to our families that these "Firsts" can be difficult days and that our team continues to remain supportive of them as needed.

"Moments to Remember" was created by CVH to support the staff in our communities. Our staff develop deeply meaningful relationships with our patients. MTR provides them with time to reflect and celebrate the life and memories of their patients for whom they have cared and to share memories with their teammates.

As CVH continues to flourish, we will build upon these benefits and make the hospice experience extraordinary for our patients and families and team members. ✝



## Investing In Our Residents

Transforming the Heart of Care at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy



By Julie Nagele, Executive Director, LNHA

In the world of healthcare, the environment plays a crucial role in the spirits and well-being of residents. Recognizing this, CVMH recently underwent a transformative investment that has not only refreshed its appearance but has uplifted the spirits of our residents and staff. The updates include new flooring, updated paint, fresh wall décor, and modernized, more functional furniture, particularly in the front entrance area of our nearly 60-year-old building.

One of the most significant aspects of the renovation was the replacement of the flooring throughout the first floor, which includes the lobby and the dining hall. The old, worn-out carpet was replaced with durable luxury plank flooring. The new flooring not only enhances the overall look of the space but also ensures greater safety and ease of mobility for the residents. Whether using walkers or wheelchairs, the smooth, non-slip surface has made ambulating the area more comfortable and secure.

The interior walls were refreshed with a new palette of paint colors. The chosen shades are not just visually appealing but were carefully selected to promote a calming and welcoming atmosphere. Soft, warm tones now grace the walls, replacing the previous outdated colors. This change has brought a breath of fresh air into the facility, making the spaces feel more inviting and homier.

In addition to the new paint, the walls were adorned with fresh décor that adds character and warmth to the space. Thoughtfully selected artwork and decorative pieces now hang in common areas, corridors, and the front entrance, creating a more engaging and pleasant environment for residents and visitors. It is not only aesthetically pleasing but also reflects our commitment to creating a nurturing and stimulating environment.

***“The updates have done more than just improve the physical space—they have also fostered a renewed sense of ownership and dignity among the residents.”***

The front entrance serves as the first impression for prospective residents and families, other visitors and a central hub for residents. Understanding its importance, we updated the furniture in this area with pieces that are both stylish and comfortable. The new seating options are not only more modern in design but also more supportive for geriatric use, offering a perfect blend of comfort, functionality and sophistication. Residents now enjoy gathering in this refurbished space, proudly showing off the improvements to their families and friends.



Perhaps the most heartwarming outcome of the renovation is the pride residents have taken in their revitalized surroundings. The updates have done more than just improve the physical space—they have also fostered a renewed sense of ownership and dignity among the residents. Many have expressed how the improvements have made their living environment more enjoyable and reflective of the high-quality care they receive.



These capital investments have truly transformed the facility into a more modern, comfortable, and inviting place for its residents. By doing these updates we have shown our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for those in our care. The pride that residents now feel in their new surroundings is a testament to the success of these efforts, making CVMH not just a place to live, but a place to call home. We now turn our attention to our chapel and the resident community center located on the lower level of our building. These are two more areas that need renovation essential to quality resident life. There's more to come! 🏡



# Night of Stars

On September 12, 2024, Christian Village Communities hosted the third annual Night of Stars Banquet in the Stone Center Auditorium. The Night of Stars recognizes our incredible team members for extraordinary performance in carrying out our mission. Were it not for our dedicated team members who deliver unprecedented quality care and attend to the needs of the over 600 residents and patients we serve, there would be no Christian Village at Mason and Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

Prior to the event, managers at both communities were asked to nominate team members they considered to be among the "Stars" in the various departments. Stars exemplify our corporate Core Values in the execution of their job responsibilities. They treat people in ways that truly demonstrate they care. Ten well-deserving team members were selected to be honored at this year's Night of Stars.



Pictured above: Linda Page Mirante

***"When we encounter situations in life, both good and bad, we need to ask the question, "How can God be glorified through this?" - Linda Page Mirante***

The response was overwhelming with tickets selling out quickly. In addition, many business partners were eager to be part of the event by being a sponsor or donating goods or services.

The night was extraordinary. After CEO Larry Monroe welcomed all attendees and Stars, an elegant dinner was served. Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Linda Page Mirante, gave a presentation that was perfect for the focus of the evening.



Following the keynote speaker, it was time to focus on the main event of the night, our honorees. Individual videos of each Star highlighted them while on the job and each was interviewed regarding how they approach their job at CVC and how they feel about what we and they do for our residents. Each honoree was called to the stage and presented with a beautiful award. The audience was able to learn about their stories and understand more fully what earned each one the distinction of Star.

The Night of Stars has become a much-anticipated, popular event for our team members, residents and others. We look forward to honoring more team members in the future. ✝

## The Christian Village at Mason Honorees



**Christy Hedger**  
Admissions

**Rebecca Adkins, STNA**  
Nursing

**Odette Kalonji, LPN**  
Nursing

**Gena Diaz, STNA**  
Nursing

**Chris Huf**  
Maintenance

## The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy Honorees



**Shannon Rowe**  
Housekeeping

**Nicole Lewis, STNA**  
Nursing

**Erin Rosfeld, Scheduler**  
Nursing

**Judith Shelton**  
Dietary

**Laronda Rice, LPN**  
Nursing

# New Leaders at CVC

## Christian Village Communities

### **Mark Evans**



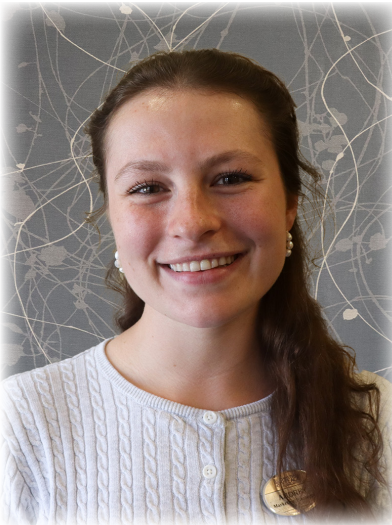
Mark joined Christian Village Communities in July 2024 in the position of Controller.

After graduating from high school, Mark enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he developed a strong sense of discipline and commitment. Following his service, he pursued higher education at the University of Cincinnati, earning a master's degree in accounting. With his Certified Public Account designation in hand, he gained valuable experience in both public and corporate accounting, which laid a solid foundation for his career. Over the past 12 years Mark served as Controller for a nonprofit health agency, managing financial operations and supporting their mission.

Outside of work, Mark enjoys spending time with his wife and four children, and he is a dedicated Bengals fan. Sundays are reserved for family, church, and football.

## The Christian Village at Mason

### **Audrey Mays**



Audrey joined CVM in July 2024 as a Marketing Specialist. In this role she supports all social media marketing, website management, marketing collateral development and newsletter creation for the communities and corporately.

Audrey graduated with her bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 2023, and recently moved from Wisconsin to Mariemont, OH. Since graduation, she has been working in marketing. She feels incredibly blessed to join the team and get to know the staff and residents.

In her free time, Audrey loves painting, gardening, hiking with her boyfriend, and driving up to Wisconsin to spend time with her mom, two younger sisters, and kitty named Toots. She also enjoys traveling and wants to visit Japan in the future.

### **Hannah McAuliffe**



Hannah joined Mason Christian Village in August 2024 in the role Director of Human Resource. She graduated with honors from Franklin University with a bachelor's in business administration and has enjoyed a variety of roles in the Healthcare industry ever since. She embraces her leadership role as Director of Human Resources. Hannah likes to help staff grow and feel appreciated but is also always ready to jump in, however she may be needed.

Outside of work, Hannah loves to spend time gardening, reading, and generally being crafty. She spends most of her time with her two wonderful children (ages 11 and 3), her loving husband, and two big silly dogs.

## The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy

### **Adena Taylor**



Adena joined The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy in August 2024 in the role of Life Enrichment Director. She enjoys bringing smiles to faces, not just the residents but the staff as well. She shares, "If I put a smile on at least one person's face each day then I've done my job. When a resident moves into a facility, it's often hard to adjust to a different place and new faces. I think that's where I can help. I help them adjust to this next step in their life."

In her spare time Adena loves spending time with her husband, Troy. They have three amazing children, Dakota 30, Cheyenne 28, and Kaiya Jade 20, and a granddaughter, Lavada. They all have dinner together on Sundays. She enjoys reading, watching tv, playing cards and boardgames.

### **Rayonna Jones**



Rayonna joined the Christian Village at Mt. Healthy team on July 2024 as the RN Supervisor.

She is a graduate of Hondros College of Nursing. She practiced as an LPN before becoming a Registered Nurse and is currently in school to obtain her bachelor's degree in nursing.

In addition to her experience in long-term care nursing, Rayonna worked at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Her free time is spent with her three daughters. What she appreciates the most when she is alone is silence. ✝️

***"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward."***

***- Colossians 3:23-24***



# Summer Fun at the Village Pavilion

By Tracy Wolcott, Director of Community Life Services



The new Village Pavilion at The Christian Village at Mason has truly been a hub of activity and joy throughout the summer, offering countless opportunities for our community to come together, share experiences, and make lasting memories.

One of the first events held in May was an ice cream social, specifically organized for our memory care and assisted living residents. On that beautiful sunny day, residents indulged in the simple pleasure of chocolate and vanilla ice cream topped with a variety of flavorful toppings with, of course, a cherry on top. They laughed, shared stories, and simply enjoyed each other's company in the comfortable, shaded area provided by the pavilion.

Another popular Village Pavilion event was the monthly men's breakfast. Our dedicated maintenance staff took the lead in preparing a delicious breakfast that included French toast, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, and more, all cooked to perfection on the Blackstone grill. These breakfasts are more than just a meal—they are a time for the men in our community to gather, share stories, and build connections over hearty food. The informal setting of the pavilion, combined with the aroma of sizzling breakfast favorites, creates a relaxed atmosphere that encourages fellowship and fun.



One of the standout Village Pavilion events of the summer was the "Under the Sea" dance, which included residents from independent living and assisted living. Despite the summer heat, the pavilion was filled with energy and enthusiasm as residents, staff, and volunteers danced the evening away to oldies music.

The Village Pavilion has become an essential part of our community's social life, providing a space where residents can gather, celebrate, and enjoy each other's company.

Many thanks to our many donors whose gifts helped to make the pavilion a reality! We look forward to continuing to utilize this wonderful space for many more events that will bring joy, connection, and lasting memories to our residents. ✝



# CBA Director Chairs Foundation Board



We are pleased to welcome Jonathon McCann as the Chair of the CBA Foundation Board. Mr. McCann joined the Board of The Christian Benevolent Association in 2022. He previously served on the boards of the CBA Foundation for the Aging, Beech Acres Parenting Center, Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio, Atrium Medical Center Foundation, Ohio Valley Goodwill, Warren County Foundation, Cincinnati Opera Association, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. He also served as an elder at Christ's Church at Mason.

Mr. McCann retired in 2015 after 28 years with Johnson Investment Counsel. Prior to that he was associate minister of Mt. Washington Church of Christ (now Parkside Christian Church). He is a graduate of Cincinnati Christian University (AB and MDiv) and the University of Cincinnati (MBA). He and his wife Kathy are members of West Side Church of Christ in Lebanon, OH. They have three children and four grandchildren. ✝

# Welcome Matthew Hilderbran

Vice President of Development

We are excited to welcome Matthew "Matt" Hilderbran to our team as Vice President of Fundraising. Mr. Hilderbran is a 1996 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Arts & sciences in social work. In 2008 he earned a Master of Theological Studies from Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Finlay, Ohio.

Matt's work experience includes being Founder, Fundraiser and Communicator for the h2o ministry at the University of Cincinnati. He spent 19 years fundraising and doing ministry on college campuses. He also began H5 Ventures LLC, a company which purchased and refurbished rental properties, providing affordable housing for UC students. For the last seven years, Matt has helped lead a successful team in fundraising and development for the Life Enriching Communities Foundation, which supports the work of several life-plan communities, including Twin Lakes Retirement Community and Twin Towers Retirement Community in the greater Cincinnati market area.



Matt and his wife Amy have five children. They stay busy going to sporting events as they have two college athletes as well as two younger athletes. You may find them on a free weekend looking for old vinyl records for their collection. They are members at Center Pointe Christian Church, previously known as Lakota Christian Church. ✝

# Memorial and Honor Gifts

Gifts Given Jan – June 2024

## In Memory Of

### Alma “Clio” Adler

Robert & Deborah Adler

### Vivian Anthony

Ronald & Mary Anthony

### W. E. Anthony

Ronald & Mary Anthony

### Mary Sullivan Balogh

Thomas & Elaine Sullivan

### Margaret Barger

John & Vickie Hale

### Roy & Eloise Beatty

Larry & Kathy Monroe

### Sue Beck

Clifford Beck

### Alex Betlej

James & Sherry Betlej

### Howard Brammer

Marilyn Buzza  
William & Martha Mendez  
Tom & Kay Moll  
Herman & Nancy  
Samendinger

### Ray & Fern Brestel

Dick & Jerilyn Clegg

### Ian Dasent

Jeannie Dasent

### Bob Dell

Mary Lohman

### Naomie Devitt

Patricia Balboni

### Barbara Dills

Celine O'Connor

### Don Engelhard

Karen Merkle

### Edna Foertsch

Robert & Carol Yung

### William Fotheringham

Dennis Caruso

William & Martha Mendez

### Mel & Norma Frisinger

Larry & Kathy Monroe

### Peggy Goodnight

Larry & Kathy Monroe

### Donald Griffin

Audrey Griffin

### Daniel Hall

Andrew & Roberta Lewis

### Shirley Hallmark

Louis & Wilma Kressin

### Richard Henke

Ron & Liz Morris

### Jane Herzner

Fred Herzner

### Donald & Iris Hille

Vicky Horton

### Marilyn Hollstegge

Susan Dickey  
Wendell Herrin  
Janet Lanning  
Mary Scherer  
Diane Sweeney  
Kerry Tiberghain  
Barbara Trulock

### Edwin Hunter

Margaret Hunter

### James & Boots Johnson

Sam & Donna Zalatoris

### Robert Johnson

Wilbur & Philis Dils

### George & Henrietta Kehler

William Kehler

### Joe Kimmey

Vicki Kimmey

### Judy Kimmey

Vicki Kimmey

### Evelyn Landen

Marian Chace

Martin Hrabik

Barbara Landen

### Ellen Mains

Harold Mains

### Ralph Massmann

Barbara Murray

### Dale & Judy McCann

Jonathan & Kathy McCann

### Mary McClure

Blanche Walker

### Mildred Merkel

Al Shelton & Deanna  
Bartholme  
Brunk Excavating  
Jack & Barbara Cottrell  
Jacqueline Cutshall  
Dr. Charles & Mrs. Sadie  
Eger  
Joan Fitzgerald  
Louis & Wilma Kressin

### Heidi Messinger

Pete Messinger

### Brian Monroe

Larry & Kathy Monroe

### Lance Monroe

Larry & Kathy Monroe

### Robert & Dorothy Monroe

Larry & Kathy Monroe

### Dolores Montanye

Dean Montanye

### Bert & Pat Morris

Ron & Liz Morris

### Topsy New

Mona & Arnold Burge  
Betty Overstreet

### Gertrude Omps

Richard Walthour

### David Phillips

David & Pat Hargrave

### Eugene Plunkett

Sheryl Haag

### James Plunkett

Beverly Young

### David Pohl

Nancy Skirvin

### Paul & Kathleen Pratt

Richard Coyle

### Gertrude Pringle

Larry Pringle  
Julia Sprong

### Joann Raga

Charles & Bonnie Bauer  
Arthur Bertke  
Kim Bebout

### Richard Reeves

Roberta Reeves

### Harry Rohde

Mark Rohde

### Kathryn Rotherum

Doris Dicken  
Herman & Nancy  
Samendinger

### Ivy Scheffel

Kenneth Scheffel

### Eugene & Barbara Schiele

Jim & Carolyn Watson

### Charlotte Schultz

Margaret Orr  
Donald VonHagel

### Gerald Siddall

Richard Walthour

### Charlotte Sidler

Barbara Murray

## In Honor Of

### William & Marion Fotheringham

Terri Baroch

### David & Mildred Merkel

Richard & Nancy Shonkwiler

### Julia Sprong

Gary & Pat Sprong

Herman & Nancy  
Samendinger

### Florence Spengler

Mary Spengler

### Smokey Sprong

Gary & Pat Sprong

### Jacob Stap

Jean Stap  
Sue Vogt

### Sam & Gwen Stone

Kenneth & Jill Griffith

### Pete Taylor

Beth Rowland

### Rita Tenkman

Don & Pat Mortimer

### Norma Tucker

David & Maxine Tucker

### Donald Venseret

Bette Venseret

### Sue Vogt

Anonymous  
Al Shelton & Deanna  
Bartholme  
Dean Callison  
Lynn Crystal  
Kathy Edwards  
Melissa Hicklin  
Janice Martin  
Beverly Murray  
Herman & Nancy  
Samendinger  
Kay Sauter  
Dianna Stinson

Sara Stuart

### Joanne Warmuth

Charles & Sadie Eger

### Howard Watrous

Al Shelton & Deanna  
Bartholme  
Richard & Joanne  
Biedinger  
Bonnie Brockert  
Marilyn Buzza  
Robert & Anne Dorward  
Joyce Drake  
Judith Johnson  
Jean Kratochvil  
Louis & Wilma Kressin  
Roberta Lippelmann  
Shirley Matthews  
Bill & Martha Mendez  
John Neeb  
Herman & Nancy  
Samendinger  
Marilyn Schimanski  
Julia Sprong  
Hugh Thompson  
Blanche Walker  
Howard & Mary Ann  
Watrous  
**Fred White**  
Linda Corbett





## Christian Village at Mason Dinner at Dusk

By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy

Our residents had numerous options when making the important decision to move to a Life Plan Community, so it is an absolute honor that they selected CVM as their new home. A move to a retirement community can be overwhelming, but once a new resident is here and settled, we hear time and time again “I should have moved here years ago!”

We have 189 independent living Garden Homes, and we strive to find ways that new residents can meet each other and make new friends in our neighborhood-style campus. One way we do this is through an annual event known as Dinner at Dusk.

Our inaugural Dinner at Dusk was in 2018. When the Covid-19 pandemic happened, we paused all large activities and events for the safety of our residents, so Dinner at Dusk was forced into a hiatus. Finally, last year, we were able to reinstate the event, and on June 25th Garden Home residents packed the Stone Center Auditorium for our 2024 Dinner at Dusk. It was truly a night to remember.



The auditorium was arranged banquet style with beautiful candlelight tablescapes. Guests first enjoyed a delicious two-bite appetizer and were given a program including pictures and biographies of all the new Garden Home residents. While a pianist played, our Dining Services team served braised short ribs with creamy peppercorn sauce, savory whipped potatoes, roasted carrots and shallots and finished with a fresh fruit trifle. During dinner, all guests had the opportunity to mix and mingle with friends new and old.

Based on the overwhelming positive feedback, the Dinner at Dusk will continue to be an annual event at CVM for many years to come. ✝

## CBA Foundation - Supporting Our Team Members



By Tracy Bray, VP of Human Resources

The CBA Foundation (CBAF) does many wonderful things for our employees. Some are easily seen, and some happen behind the scenes. Like helping an employee whose electricity was going to be turned off after being off work with COVID for two weeks. Or then there was an employee who was helped to buy basic supplies after an apartment fire in which she was badly burned.

One worthy CBAF cause is renewable college scholarships for high school seniors working part-time in our dining room. An employee must be employed with us for one year in good standing and must complete a grant application, which includes a 400-word essay describing the impact CVC has had on their life and how it will benefit them in the future. The scholarship is renewable up to a total of 4 years.

In May, Lauren Hicks was awarded a College Scholarship Grant. Lauren works at The Christian Village at Mason. In the fall she will be using this grant to attend DePauw University for a degree in Psychology. The following is an excerpt from Lauren’s essay.

“I believe that kind people have a unique ability to make the world a better, more thoughtful place.” Lauren went on to reference a co-worker who she characterized as “everybody’s favorite, and everybody was her favorite.” Her name was Susan. Lauren always looked forward to working with Susan. It energized her and helped her get through tough days. Time passed and their friendship continued to deepen, and then one day Lauren arrived at work to find that her friend had unexpectedly passed away. Nothing would be the same at work without Susan.



A few months later Lauren asked to be cross trained as a Prep Cook, as Susan was. She says, “That request has become an opportunity for me to follow in Susan’s footsteps and have an impact on others in the process.” She notes that the change has given her a new perspective on how so many roles within a kitchen work in tandem.

One evening Lauren and the closing supervisor were in the breakroom enjoying a cup of banana pudding Lauren had made. The supervisor told her Susan would be proud of the dessert she had made and the effort she had put into her job. Lauren goes on to say, “That comment has stuck with me, the same way Susan has. We met by chance, but her impact wasn’t incidental. Susan set a standard of kindness in my life that will forever inspire me to be better, the way she was.”

Lauren personifies the heart and soul of the CVC ministry. We wish her well at DePauw University and anxiously expect God to do great things in her life in the future. ✝



## Faith, Family and FC Cincinnati!

What do Faith, Family and FC Cincinnati have in common? At CVMH those words mean a lot to one resident, Coletta Valentine. Behind Coletta's smile and kind words lies a deep passion for FC Cincinnati!

One day while speaking with the CVMH Wellness Coordinator Mike, Coletta found another "orange and blue" fan, and shared that one of her goals was to go to an FC Cincinnati game while she still could. Mike was moved as he began to think how this resident's dream could become a reality.

Spry and sharp as Coletta is, a trip like this is not the easiest of tasks. She would need to build strength and endurance. Working with therapy, she walked around the CVMH facility.



After months of hard work, Coletta's son Paolo sent Mike a text reporting, "Mom is going to the game tonight!"

Paolo made it a night to remember. He had a driver pick Coletta up and stadium suite seats were reserved! Once Coletta arrived at TQL Stadium there was a surprise waiting for her.

Before the game FC Cincinnati center back Nick Hagglund came to the suite to meet Coletta. Those are memories she will cherish for the rest of her life. She has already said that she wants to go again! 🇺🇸

## A Special Opportunity for those 70 1/2 and Older

### Act Soon to receive potential 2024 tax benefits

When you are 70 1/2 or older, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your taxable IRA account to a tax-exempt charity like the CBA Foundation or Christian Village Communities up to \$105,000 annually.

If you are 73 or older, you must withdraw a specific amount from your IRA each year, called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If you transfer all or a part of your RMD directly to a qualified charity like the CBA Foundation or CVC, the amount that is transferred may not be considered taxable income.

This is for informational purposes only. Please consult with a financial professional to see if this type of gift is right for you. 🇺🇸



## Sunrise Vista Breaks Ground

On July 3, 2024, we celebrated the groundbreaking of our new independent living expansion at The Christian Village at Mason, Sunrise Vista. Sunrise Vista is adjacent to CVM's existing 75-acre campus and has been designed to meet the rising demand for independent living retirement living in greater Cincinnati.

Sunrise Vista will feature 24 independent living homes with luxurious finishes. Each home has three bedrooms, three full bathrooms, and a two-car garage. There will be a large clubhouse for social gatherings and a bistro for alternative dining. Of course, the new expansion will have direct connectivity to the main CVM campus with priority access to our award-winning, 5-Star healthcare center.

Of particular benefit to this new addition and our existing residents is convenient proximity of just a few blocks to Mason Ohio's new \$150 million Mosaic, mixed-use development opening soon in featuring the renowned Dorothy Lane Market.

CVM is partnering with The Robert Lucke Group to bring Sunrise Vista to life. TRLG has a distinguished history of building some of greater Cincinnati's finest custom homes. Luminant, one of Cincinnati's leading architectural firms specializing in senior living is the architect for Sunrise Vista.

Immediately after the groundbreaking, our sitework contractor began performing the earthwork to excavate the new pond and roadways and other site work for the development. At the writing of this article the first homes are underroof.

Future Sunrise Vista residents are already making their finish selections for their new homes. Phase one of the project, consisting of 10 homes, is nearly sold out! Our architect predicts phase one will be completed in late summer of 2025 and phase two will be completed in July of 2026.

If you have interest, or you know of a friend or family member that may have interest in information about becoming a resident of Sunrise Vista, please contact Lizz Stephens at (513) 701-3408. Stay tuned for updates in future editions of the Connection Newsletter. 🇺🇸

# Getting To Know the New CEO



By Vickie Brashear

What an honor and a privilege it is for me to be selected by The Christian Village Communities' Board of Directors to serve as President/CEO following Larry's retirement. Serving as a CEO has never been a career goal of mine, but sometimes God has another plan for us.

When I first graduated from college, I had an interview scheduled with Community Mutual Insurance Company, now Anthem, to be a Medicare auditor. I was young and the interview was in downtown Cincinnati on West 8th Street. This was before most people had cell phones. I couldn't find the location for the interview. I spent a lot of time looking and then finally gave up. I didn't have a phone so I couldn't call them. Back then if you missed an interview or were even late, your chance of getting the job was almost zero. I thought to myself that it wasn't meant to be. However, later I received a call from the HR Director, and she

asked me what happened. I explained that I couldn't find the office and that I didn't have a phone to call them. The HR Director said that it was a frequent problem for them because of where they are located and she wanted to reschedule my interview. I was amazed. I did get the job where I performed Medicare audits of skilled nursing facilities and hospitals and that is how my career began. God did have a plan.

I worked as a Medicare auditor for two years and then took the CPA exam. I passed the CPA exam on my first sitting and scored in the top 10%. Because of my high score I was recruited by General Electric Company in Evendale. While at GE, I completed their Corporate Financial Management Program. This is a two-and-a-half-year program that consists of graduate level classes and rotational job assignments. I had a promising career ahead of me at GE, but I couldn't stop thinking about my time as a Medicare Auditor.

After I was at GE for almost five years, I was contacted by my previous employer. They said they were starting a new unit that specialized in the audits of skilled nursing facilities and asked if I would be interested in coming back. I told them that I would pray about it and get back to them. I truly felt like this would be taking a huge step back in my career, but I felt that was the direction in which I should go. I worked as a Medicare Auditor for another eight years. God did have a plan.

I was then contacted by a friend from high school. She was working for a small skilled nursing home chain. They were looking for a Controller and she thought I might be interested. Again, I told her that I would pray about it and get back to her. I did agree to take the Controller position. I worked for the small nursing home chain for four years, but I started feeling like God had another plan for me. I began praying hard for God to lead me in a new direction.

Reading a local paper, I discovered an ad for a Controller at Cedar Village Retirement Community. When I read the job description, I felt drawn to the position. I applied and interviewed for the position. They were having financial struggles at the time and were not able to offer me what I was making so it would mean a cut in pay for me. Again, I said I would pray about it. I felt strongly that I should accept this job. God did have a plan.

I was at Cedar Village for eight years. During my tenure I was promoted to the Chief Financial Officer position. It was a great job, and the Cedar Village Board respected me and the work that I was doing. However, even though I liked my job, I was always thinking to myself how much more rewarding it would be for me to work for a Christian organization. At one point I even tried to see if Mason Christian Village was looking for a Chief Financial Officer. But at that time, it was not God's timing.

After eight years at Cedar Village my husband was eligible to retire from his job, but we were both still young. I agreed to semi-retire with him and start a private tax service from my home. This didn't last long for either one of us. My husband went back to work after one and a half years, and I went back to work after two years.

During those two years, one of the board members from Cedar Village reached out to me. He was on another board of a small not-for-profit that was struggling financially. They were not even sure they would be able to pay me for my time. I agreed to help. It was a lot of work, but we were able to save the organization, and it is still operating today.

It was after this that I was contacted by a recruiter about a CFO job at Christian Village Communities, where I began working in October of 2014. I don't even have the words to explain how rewarding it has been to work for such a wonderful spirit-filled Christian organization. It has been amazing!

When I was asked to consider the CEO position, I said I would need to pray about it. And like so many other times in my career, God confirmed that this is what He has planned for me. I am extremely excited about the future, and I have great confidence that God will continue to bless Christian Village Communities. God does have a plan! ✝

***“I am extremely excited about the future, and I have great confidence that God will continue to bless Christian Village Communities. God does have a plan!”***



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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.

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