

Connection

Getting to Know Our Residents in My First Few Months as CEO



By Vickie Brashear, President & CEO

I have very much enjoyed my first few months as CEO of Christian Village Communities. One of my primary objectives has been to get to know the residents and learn about how they found our communities. Many tell me how much they love it here and how blessed they are to be part of such a faith-based community.

Last fall, I had the opportunity to hike Smale Riverfront Park with a group of residents. It was a bright, sunny day, and I was fortunate enough to talk individually with almost everyone in the group. They all raved about what a great job our Life Enrichment group does to coordinate meaningful activities and how blessed we are to have them, and I must agree.

I recently met with a couple who moved into a Garden Home last summer. They told me they were planning to take a three-month camping trip this year, but because they are enjoying being a part of our community so much, they have canceled it. They don't want to be away for the entire summer! They have done extensive travel in their camper and have stayed overnight in Canada and all 48 contiguous United States. Canceling their camping trip speaks to the high-quality resident activities and events that foster relationship building among our residents. The goal is that each resident can get as involved, and participate in activities as much or as little as they want.

Another resident told me about how he and his wife became world travelers after they retired. They did not travel much before retirement, and after they took their first international trip it became a goal to visit as many countries as possible, reaching over 55 countries and provinces. What an achievement!

I also had the opportunity to meet with some of our Mt. Healthy residents. They all raved about how much they love the community. One resident said that she came to know about our community through her church. She loves the spiritual culture of our community, and our chaplain was extremely comforting during the height of Covid-19. She shared photos of roses that she had grown prior to moving to the community and they were amazingly beautiful. Another resident shared that she moved to the community to be close to family. She is originally from Chattanooga, TN, and still manages to visit friends there at least once a year.

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I spoke with a resident that is 100 years old. I was so impressed with how active she keeps herself. She said that her Wii bowling score is better than when she would bowl with a group. She also learned about our community through her church. It was so rewarding to speak to the residents and learn more about each of them.

One very memorable visit I had was with a Garden Home couple. He retired from GE Aircraft Engines, and she is a retired cost accountant. I also worked for GE Aircraft Engines for five years and completed their Financial Management Program. As we talked about our work experiences, I told them that my dad and brother also retired from GE, and we discovered he actually knew my father very well. They not only worked together, but he guided my father through a home-building process in Blanchester, OH. I realized how much they both reminded me of my own parents, both enjoying gardening and freezing vegetables. I thoroughly enjoyed talking to them and reminiscing about my parents.

Both my mother and father passed away in 2013. Some say that my dad died from a broken heart after my mother passed. I miss my parents, and I love them very much. But I know they are in heaven with my heavenly father, Jesus.

Getting to know the residents on a personal basis is very much a blessing. It reaffirms that our goal each day is to care for our residents the way that we would care for our own parents.

I am looking forward to continuing to meet and get to know the residents at both our Mason and Mt. Healthy campuses. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34). "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35). ✝

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A Centennial Birthday at CVMH

Reaching a 100th birthday is amazing, and when a resident in our communities reaches a centennial birthday we celebrate in style!

On November 13, 2024, Evelyn Sarno reached the remarkable milestone of her 100th birthday! Staff and residents at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) came together to surprise Evelyn with a celebration. We were honored to welcome City of Mt. Healthy Mayor Jennifer Moody to the celebration. In recognition of this extraordinary occasion, the mayor presented Evelyn with a certificate of achievement. Evelyn's loving family members traveled from near and far to celebrate this joyous occasion with her.

Evelyn was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up alongside her older sister, Grace. In 1946 she married Modesto "Buddy" Sarno, a childhood friend from church. Together they built a beautiful life, settling in Long Island, NY. They raised two children, John and Lisa, and opened their hearts and home as foster parents. Evelyn's family grew over the years, blessing her with four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



As a young woman, Evelyn worked as a seamstress. Her talent led her to an exciting opportunity working behind the scenes at New York Fashion Week. The garments she created even made the JCPenney catalog, marking a proud chapter in her career.

In 2010, Evelyn and Buddy relocated to Cincinnati, where they became active members of Bridgetown Church of Christ. Through the church, they volunteered at CVMH, forming a special connection with the community. After Buddy passed away in 2020, just before their 75th wedding anniversary, Evelyn moved to Maryland to be closer to her son. However, after six months she wanted to regain her independence. Remembering the warm experiences she had at CVMH, she knew it was the perfect place for her next chapter.

Since moving to CVMH, Evelyn has embraced her community with joy and gratitude. We are truly blessed to have her as part of our CVMH family and honored to celebrate this incredible milestone with her! ✝



Sunrise Vista Nears Phase One Completion



By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy

In July 2024 we broke ground on The Christian Village at Mason's new independent living expansion, Sunrise Vista. What began as a ceremonial shovel in the dirt has blossomed into a beautiful addition to our community.

Sunrise Vista is being built adjacent to the Christian Village at Mason's existing campus and will be comprised of 24 independent living homes and a clubhouse. The project has been divided into two phases. Ten single family homes, one duplex unit and a clubhouse will be built in the first phase, and the remaining twelve homes will be built in phase two. All twelve homes in phase one are nearly constructed with some homes already completed. The clubhouse is underroof and the streets are paved. We are projecting that phase one, including all sitework, will be completed in the summer of this year.



All twelve homes in the first phase are reserved for new residents and the second phase is selling fast. These spacious homes feature three bedrooms, three full bathrooms, a two-car garage, high-end finishes, a gas fireplace, a large kitchen island, and topline appliances. A fun benefit of being one of the first residents of Sunrise Vista is the ability to customize the finishes. New residents have a choice of quartz or granite countertops, cabinetry, paint colors, hardware finish, flooring, and bathroom tile. There are also upgrade options available such as adding a screened-in porch or crown molding.

An additional feature of Sunrise Vista includes its convenient proximity to the city of Mason, Ohio's new \$150 million Mosaic mixed use development featuring Dorothy Lane Market. This beautiful amenity is just a few blocks from the Mason campus and is within comfortable walking distance for our residents. Dorothy Lane is projected to open in 2025. Of course, Sunrise Vista residents also have direct connectivity to the main Christian Village at Mason campus and all the amenities and services provided.

This continues to be such a thrilling project for Christian Village Communities and helps us extend our ministry to more senior adults while providing the Christian Village at Mason more diverse independent living options.


If you are interested in more information about Sunrise Vista, please contact me at 513-701-3408 or at lizz.stephens@christianvillages.org. 

Welcome Diane Gumbert, CFO



Diane Gumbert joined the Christian Villages Communities as Chief Financial Officer in October of 2024. She worked in the long-term care industry for more than 30 years in both for-profit and not-for-profit communities and has extensive experience in healthcare and finance.

Prior to joining Christian Village Communities, she served in the role of VP of Finance for a non-profit senior living community on the west side of Cincinnati. She held various positions in other for-profit senior living communities where she served as Health Care Reimbursement Specialist, Director of Accounting, VP of Finance & Chief Financial Officer. She's a licensed CPA in the state of Ohio and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Northern Kentucky University in 1986.

She and her husband Dan live in the Milford area. They have four beautiful adult children and a German shepherd named Daisy. She feels blessed to be part of our faith-based community to care for and make a difference in the lives of the residents we serve. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling. 

Celebrating our Team Members

The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) congratulates India Wofford, Social Services Assistant, upon completing her Associate Degree in Human and Social Services from Bryant & Stratton College.

India has been a valued member of the CVMH team since August 2023. She stepped into her Social Services role in June 2024.

Her dedication and compassion have been a true blessing to the department and to our residents and patients.

Congratulations, India! 





Community Activities – Critical to Resident Life



By Tracy Wolcott, Director of Community Life Services

At The Christian Village at Mason, we are fortunate to have an engaged community where residents from Garden Homes, Garden Apartments, and the healthcare center come together to enjoy a variety of activities. There is always something happening to keep everyone involved, fostering a sense of connection, joy and fellowship.

The fall season was especially filled with exciting events such as Oktoberfest, where residents enjoyed traditional German food, lively music, and an atmosphere of celebration in our wonderful outdoor pavilion. The crisp autumn air and festive décor set the perfect

scene for laughter and camaraderie.

As we transitioned into the holiday season, our Dining Services and Community Life Services departments hosted several social gatherings before concerts where residents could mingle with friends before enjoying live music. These times of togetherness really showcase the strong community spirit that makes CVM so special.

To close out 2024 and welcome 2025, we held a New Year's Eve Day Party, bringing residents to celebrate a little early. Everyone enjoyed delicious treats, lively conversation, and a festive atmosphere to start the new year on a high note. Lastly, January can often feel like a long and dreary month, but at CVM, we didn't let the winter blues get us down. Over 100 residents attended our Bash the Blues Dinner, an event filled with energy, music and dancing. Staff also joined in the fun, creating a truly inclusive and spirited gathering that lifted everyone's spirits. It was a fantastic way to keep the momentum of community engagement going into the new year!

More to Come!

Activities at CVM never stop, with the calendar always full of opportunities for residents to connect, have fun, and try new things. As we continue into the year, we look forward to even more exciting activities that bring joy, laughter, and a strong sense of community to all who call The Christian Village at Mason home. 🌟



CVM Partners with Mercy Health Kings Mills Hospital



By Susan Myers, VP of Health Services, Compliance and Analytics

In January 2024 the new Mercy Health Kings Mills Hospital (MHKMH) in Mason, Ohio opened its doors to the community. The new hospital is just five miles from The Christian Village at Mason (CVM) campus.

Being so close to the CVM campus, establishing a strong business relationship with the new hospital became a top priority. Our CEO met with the hospital CEO where the two quickly committed to fostering a business alliance.

MHKMH is part of Mercy Health, a prominent healthcare provider in the region and part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, one of the largest health systems in the United States. The hospital offers a comprehensive range of services to support the well-being of its patients. The hospital has become an essential healthcare resource for the region.

One very positive derivative from our new relationship with MHKMH has been their commitment to host a quarterly wellness speaking series event on the CVM campus. This initiative aligns with our shared commitment to promoting health education.

The Health and Wellness Speaking Series kicked off on October 9, 2024, featuring Jason Asic, CEO of MHKMH, who spoke passionately about the importance of community engagement and the need to enhance healthcare services for the populations we both serve. Dr. Victoria Zysek delivered an insightful presentation on cardiac health.

The next event, held on February 5, 2025, featured Dr. James Abbott, MD, a distinguished orthopedic surgeon who delivered an engaging presentation on the latest advances in orthopedic treatments.

Our next event is scheduled for April 9, 2025, and will focus on the importance of primary care, with an emphasis on early detection, vaccinations, and maintaining overall wellness.

The collaboration between CVM and MHKMH is indicative of CVC's commitment to excellence in healthcare. By combining our resources, expertise, and commitment to care, we look forward to continuing this journey together. 🌟



Christian Village Hospice Volunteerism – So Many Benefits



By Heather Carter, LNHA, LSW, Christian Village Hospice Administrator

The Mission Statement of Christian Village Communities is to guide older adults to joyful and purposeful life experiences in a faith-filled community. This mission is carried out in every facet of our operation with great purpose and dedication, especially when it comes to the volunteers who work with our Christian Village Hospice (CVH) patients. The benefits of volunteering provide great quality of life for both the person being served as well as the volunteer.

Research shows that volunteering provides physical and mental benefits. It can help reduce stress and depression and keep the mind active. Helping others releases endorphins and will boost a person's mood and help reduce feelings of isolation they may otherwise experience. In addition, volunteering helps keep one's mind sharp by way of increased social interaction, learning new skills and problem solving, all of which help maintain cognitive function. Volunteering also provides a sense of purpose, and a sense of accomplishment.

The CVH volunteer program continues to provide positive interaction between our hospice patients and the volunteers. Our patients benefit in many ways from the services our volunteers provide, such as enjoying walks on our campuses, attending church services or concerts, playing cards and experiencing therapy pet visits. Volunteers also benefit from these activities.

One volunteer spends time reading and reviewing poetry written by a hospice patient and takes extra time to author their own poems. Patient and volunteer each share their favorite poems. The time spent together helps the patient reflect on his life, but it also provides meaningful reflection for the volunteer and a sense of accomplishment.

Another volunteer enjoys the 1:1 time with her hospice patient but looks forward to planning celebrations with her patient as well. She brings in "goodies" and decorations to celebrate various holidays. She has also enjoyed getting to know other residents who reside in the area where her hospice patient lives. She shares, "It warms my heart to see the smiles."

Spending time with the hospice patients provides a sense of purpose. As one of our volunteers noted "it's nice to be needed." Other volunteers comment that spending time with the hospice patients not only benefits the patient, but they learn a lot about themselves as the hospice patients share their stories and they build rapport with them.

The dedication of the hospice volunteers and stories they share are impactful. However, what is more astounding is the benefit that the volunteers receive.

For information about becoming a hospice volunteer, please contact me at 513-398-1486. 

"Spending time with the hospice patients provides a sense of purpose.

As one of our volunteers noted 'it's nice to be needed.'"

The Legacy Society

An Estate Gift Sustaining the Ministry You Love


Philanthropy through estate giving is essential to advancing, enriching, and preserving the ministry and mission of Christian Village Communities well into the future. With heartfelt thanks to our friends who have displayed their commitment to the CBA Foundation through a planned gift, we have established **The Legacy Society**. The Legacy Society honors individuals who have made estate provisions for the CBA Foundation. This includes naming the CBA Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. Gifts can also take the form of cash, securities, insurance, and even entrance fee refunds from residents residing at The Christian Village at Mason. By including our ministry in your long-term estate plans, you give a powerful testament of your priorities and appreciation of Christian Village Communities.

"When Kathy and I completed our Living Trust we were eager to include CBAF as a beneficiary in our estate plan. In doing so our legacy will extend beyond our personal service in leadership of the organization."

-Larry Monroe, former President and CEO,
Christian Village Communities

People are becoming very intentional about including the CBA Foundation in their estate plans. This allows for greater reach of Compassionate Care (supporting qualifying residents who run out of resources) and Charitable Giving (supporting other needs such as our employee hardship/scholarship grants). We desire to continue to grow our ministry to serve more people. Those that include us in their estate plans view us as part of their family. We are honored to be thought of in that way.

We are planning to have our first **Legacy Society Luncheon** in the fall of 2025 to thank and celebrate those that view the CBA Foundation and Christian Village Communities as family. Please let us know if you have included us in your estate plans so we can invite you! We expect that there will be CVC residents and non-residents at the luncheon, as well as Board members and other donors.

If you have any questions or need more information on the Legacy Society or planned-giving options contact Matt Hilderbran, VP of Development at (513) 701-3345 or matt.hilderbran@christianvillages.org. 

New Team Leaders



Pam Shanks

Pam Shanks joined The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy in January 2025 as the Certified Nurse Assistant Development Coach. Pam shares, "After interviewing and meeting the management team I felt that I was blessed to finally have found an organization that obviously lives out its mission. I have a passion for ensuring the best care for our residents and look forward to working with everyone to help accomplish that goal every day."

Pam became a nurse in 2007. She had cared for her mother for years due to medical issues. She found the work rewarding and decided to pursue a nursing career. She has worked in various specialties such as rehab, surgery, corrections, and wound care, but she has always felt most rewarded by caring for older adults, and shares it's where her heart is!

Pam spends her free time with her three daughters who are in various school activities. She enjoys reading, hockey, and studying history.



Cassie Smith

Cassie Smith joined The Christian Village at Mason team in May 2017 as a Certified Nurse Assistant. She shares that she loved being a Nurse Aide, but in time continued her education at ATA Nursing School where she successfully became a Licensed Practical Nurse.

In November 2024, Cassie was promoted to a new position as CNA Development Coach. In this new role she will utilize her experience and knowledge as both a CNA and a nurse to help develop our new and existing CNAs. Cassie shares, "I feel blessed to have been given an opportunity to advance my career at CVC in this new leadership role. I am excited about this new journey and strive to be a positive influence on our team."

In her free time, Cassie loves to spend time with her son, family, and close friends. She enjoys the outdoors (when it's warm), baking, playing cards and board games, and she's always up for a good "family movie."



Geri Benter

Geri Benter joined The Christian Village at Mason in January 2025 as the Front Desk Receptionist. She is a graduate of Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO, and has worked as an Administrative Assistant for many years. Her work experience includes working at two Bible Colleges, Northwest Local Schools in Cincinnati, different churches, a library, and a pregnancy center. Geri and her husband Donny take pride in their two children and their three "sent from heaven" grandchildren.

Geri's thrift shopping helps to fill the antique booth and case she has in Ross, OH, and helps to furnish the 1878 home she and Donny bought two years ago. The Benter's are active in their church in Hebron, KY where they have worshipped for the past eleven years. Geri is excited to be at CVM in her new role and says she has enjoyed meeting so many kind and wonderful people.



Aleigha Hummel

Aleigha joined The Christian Benevolent Association Foundation in February 2025 as the Fundraising Development Assistant. In this role, she assists the CBA Foundation and the fundraiser with administrative support. She is so excited to serve the ministry by supporting the fundraising mission. She also loves every minute that she gets to spend with the residents and hear their stories, jokes, and wisdom.

Aleigha graduated from Taylor University in 2021 with her bachelor's degree in professional writing and a minor in creative writing. In her previous roles she worked as an office assistant, and as an editor.

Aleigha has lived on three different continents, but she is proud to be from Cincinnati where she loves the city and its people so much. In her free time, she likes trying new local restaurants and coffee shops, reading, writing, editing, spending time with her family, and cooking meals to enjoy with her husband. ✝

CVC Rehab Care Excels

Lowell Bowie is a resident living at CVM. In 2024 he had a short-term rehabilitation stay in the Mason campus Grace Center for Rehabilitative Care. He was not sure what to expect but said at the time, "It is in the hands of God."

Lowell said his first impression of his room was that it was a clean, appealing and welcoming site with beautiful wood trim-work. It had a multi-functional bed, recliner, large TV and a small table with chairs for visitors. The restroom was large and well equipped for all levels of care. It made him feel comfortable and reminded him of a nice hotel room.

Lowell shared, "I was blessed with the great care I received during my stay. My compliments to the nurses and nursing assistants." He also gave high praise to the physical therapists for the disciplined care they gave him during his short stay, which was so critical for him as he gained his strength and got back to living independently at home. His dining experience was also excellent, and the team was able to meet all his needs.

Lowell concluded by saying, "I was respected by everyone who provided me care and service. The care team was fun to be around and were always positive."

The Grace Center for Rehabilitative Care was dedicated to serving patients with loving care as if they were our own family. Testimonies like Lowell's are an indication we are accomplishing that objective. ✝



Memorial and Honor Gifts

Gifts Given July 1st - December 31st, 2024

In Memory Of

Alma "Clio" Adler

Robert & Deborah Adler

Margaret Barger

John & Vickie Hale

Gertrude Barnes

Barbara Pettyjohn

Frederick Bartholme

Al Shelton & Dee Bartholme

John & Margaret Bay

James & Gene McReynolds

Frances Beany

Carolyn Walker

Lewis & Jean Beeson

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James Bell

Elizabeth Mathias

Donald Bernhardt

Jennifer Moody

Alex Betley

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Bertha Bierbaum

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Wally & Barbara Rendel

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Robert Buzza

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Betty Cain

Gene & Stephanie Lahmer

Russel, Grace, Caitlin, & Margaret Claypoole

Ruth Claypoole

Joyce Colligan

Suzanne Asher
Cynthia Thompson

Ida Crouse

Barry & Barbara Harrison

Ian Dasent

Jeannie Dasent

Pam Dean

Glen & Terri Burkhardt

Naomie Devitt

Patricia Balboni

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Barbara Barger

Dorothy Downs

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Robert Eger

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Don Engelhard

Richard Cronenberg
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Rosemary Foster

Jack Harpring
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Lois Fowler

Larry Fredrick

Marilyn Capano

David & Aileen Garcia

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Mary Lou Hall

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Frankie Hardman

Paul Kinner

Edwin Hayden

Donna Fehl

Linda Hays

Jennifer Jordan

Helen Hedges

John & Vickie Hale

Richard Henke

Ron & Liz Morris

Dorothy Heuer

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Edwin Hoeltke

Ann Craig

Robert Holmes

David & Pat Hargrave
Louis & Wilma Kressin
Jon & Kathy McCann
Blanche Walker

Victor & June Hunter

Marilyn Pitzer-Fletcher

James Johnson

Sam & Donna Zalatoris

Robert Johnson

Judith Johnson

Irene Key

David & Jennifer Key

Joe Kimmey

Vicki Kimmey

Judy Kimmey

Vicki Kimmey

Norma Kraus

Carol & Caroll Baker

Stephen Leslie

Rita Leslie

Ellen Mains

Harold Mains

Sally Maritt

Cheryl Boenschulz

Ralph & Marion Massmann

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Jean Miller

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Alice Moch

Nicholas & Pamela
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Evangeline Morse

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Michael Stock

Richard Mueninghoff

Amy Borgerding
Patricia Burns
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St. Bernard Seniors
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Shaffer Stout

Gerald & Ginny Siddall

James Dailey
Elaine Hill
William & Martha Mendez
Tom & Kay Moll
Thomas Pederson

Marilyn Smith

Jane Ferone
Sara Gaskey
Judith Hornsby

Florence Spengler

Mary Spengler

Smokey Sprong

Gary & Pat Sprong

Jacob Stap

Jean Stap

Jane Stout

E. Wayne Stout & Janet
Shaffer Stout

Rita Tenkman

Don & Pam Mortimer

Norma Tucker

David & Maxine Tucker

Sue Vogt

Kenneth & Kathleen Hastings

Blanche Walker

Richard & Joanne Biedinger
Colleen Dallmer
Bobbie DeRosa
William Dunlap
Donna Fehl
Gloria Hopkins
Kenneth & Debra Hover
Clyde Koehne
Louis & Wilma Kressin
William & Martha Mendez
Tom & Kay Moll
Barbara Pettyjohn
Herman & Nancy
Samendinger
Fred & Eleanor Schreiber
Robert Schreiber
Jim & Cindy Spicer
Harlan & Vivian Ziebart

Diann Werts

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Eric Wilgenbusch

Mike & Linda Downing
Bea Higdon
Spencer Ingerson
Silvana Sabato
Sandy Wakelam

Dolores Yates

Richard & Joanne Biedinger
William & Jane Glandorf
Herman & Nancy
Samendinger
Mary Ann Zindel
Charles Zindel

In Honor Of

Peggy Baker

Leonard & Marianne Zazycki

E. Richard Crabtree

Larry & Kathy Monroe

William & Marion Fotheringham

Terri Baroch

Helen Fry

Debra Hager
Lawrence & Joyce Kent

Mark & Martha Huddleston

Jeremy Huddleston
Matthew Huddleston
The Solid Rock Christian
Church
Bruce & Donna Webster
Charlie & Karen Webster

Mary Sue Jones

Barbara Murray

A Kurdila

Leonard & Marianne Zazycki

Larry Monroe

Dr. Charles & Sadie Eger
Tony & Laura George
Wally & Barbara Rendel
Scott & Kimberly Sims

Ruth Odor

Mike & Rosemary Shannon

Phyllis Sanders

Jeffrey & Lori Burgjohann
Terri & Glen Burkhardt
Larry & Carole Collins
Donna Fehl
Rod & Autumn Huron
Ruth Odor
Scott & Kimberly Sims
Mark & Evelyn Taylor

Julia Sprong

Gary & Pat Sprong

Carol Ulrich

Michael Downing

Jon Underwood

Betty Hicks

John VanOsdol

Jacqueline Cutshall

Bill Welker

Carolyn Short

CBA Adds New Board Members

CBA is pleased to announce two new directors to its board.

Jennifer (Jenni) Moody - A career educator, Jenni taught and then later served as Principal for the city of Mt. Healthy School System. She now serves the Mt. Healthy community as Mayor. Jenni is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy where she also serves as a member of the church choir. She very much enjoys traveling and performing with the choir.

As part of her church work Jenni volunteers for Kate's Cupboard. Kate's Cupboard has been serving new moms and their babies since June 2004. Family is especially important to Jenni as she is the mother of three adult children and a grandmother of five grandchildren. She loves spending time with her family.

Jenni is a history enthusiast. She is the homeowner of The Benjamin Hunt House, a historical home which was a station on the Underground Railroad. It is part of the Hamilton Avenue Road to Freedom. Jenni does, on occasion, give private tours of her home. In addition to owning the Benjamin Hunt House, Jenni is the tour manager twice a year for Tales of the South.

Jenni's love of the Lord is evident in her life and she brings a variety of talents and experiences that will benefit us as we move into the future.

Courtenay Bythewood - A native of Decatur, Georgia, Courtenay has lived in Cincinnati for 45 years and now resides in Loveland, Ohio. He is a graduate of Cincinnati Bible Seminary and has dedicated much of his life to service in the church and community.

Courtenay has been married to his wife, Patty, for 50 years, and together they have two grown children and seven grandchildren, all of whom are a great joy. Throughout his life, Courtenay has been an active member of the church, having served as an elder at both Christ's Church at Mason and Parkside Christian Church. He is currently a member of Christ's Church at Mason.

In his early career, Courtenay served as a full-time youth minister at both Parkside Christian Church and Mt. Carmel Christian Church. He later transitioned into a successful 38-year career as an agent with State Farm Insurance Companies, from which he retired.

In his personal life, Courtenay enjoys hobbies such as golfing, playing pickleball, traveling, and woodworking.

Deep commitment to faith, community, and the ministry of CBA makes Jenni and Courtenay great additions to the Board of Directors. ✝



The Legacy Campaign

Investments at CVMH Honoring Christian Ministry and Volunteerism

There are many spaces in The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) community that are vital to resident life. Two areas of importance are the **Resident Community Center (RCC)** and the **Chapel**. Resident activities and special events take place in the RCC. The chapel is the heart of spiritual life where Sunday worship takes place. Both spaces have not had significant updates for nearly 30 years. In the fall of 2024, we announced **The Legacy Campaign** to invest \$250,000 in these two areas so vital to resident life. With The Legacy Campaign we honor the legacy of two very important areas so critical to resident life and the history of CVMH—Christian Ministry and Volunteerism.



Phyllis Sanders, left, pictured with Matt Hilderbran, VP of Development

With this campaign and the renovations to the RCC we are paying special honor to one volunteer who is truly a role model for volunteerism at CVMH. Phyllis Sanders's Christian witness and spirit, infectious warmth, smiling face, and kind touch has impacted the lives of our residents and staff for many years. The RCC will be renamed in her honor, The Phyllis Sanders Fellowship Hall.

Gifts made in support of the chapel renovations will honor the legacy of Christian ministry and its impact on the founding of CVMH and the CBA ministry. We will honor the many ministers and missionaries and their spouses who have been served by CVMH, and who have served CVMH as staff or any other capacity.

Work has begun on the chapel with new carpeting, paint, lighting, A/V equipment, furniture, and a refreshed stage area with state-of-the-art technology necessary to bring our chapel services and special events up to modern standards.

Mary Lou, a CVMH resident, shares, "The chapel renovations thus far are so beautiful; it looks so much bigger and brighter. It's a wonderful place to worship."

To date we have raised nearly \$100,000 of the \$250,000 budgeted. Thank you to all who have supported this critical project. Many more are needed for us to meet our budgeted needs. Will you send a gift today? Perhaps there is a minister, missionary, or volunteer you would like to honor with your gift.

Gifts to the Legacy Campaign can be mailed to the CBA Foundation with special designation "Legacy Campaign" to 411 Western Row Rd, Mason, Ohio 45040. Gifts can also be given online at www.christianvillages.org. ✝



Chapel nears completion



Renewed Tradition Reunites Residents

At The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH), community and fellowship are at the heart of everything we do. One of the most beloved traditions in our community was the monthly Women's Breakfast, an event that brought our ladies together to enjoy a delicious meal, good conversation, and warm fellowship. After a long pause, we are thrilled to have this tradition back, and our residents couldn't be happier.

Residents are encouraged to share their meal preferences, and the Maintenance and Life Enrichment teams go above and beyond to make this special breakfast a reality. Requests range from French toast and Goette, a Cincinnati favorite, to eggs and more.



The event is more than just breakfast; it's a celebration of friendship and community. The joy we see on faces as they come together makes all the hard work worth it.

Kudos to our incredible staff for bringing this cherished event back to life each month. Their commitment to enhancing the lives of our residents does not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for all that they do.

We look forward to many more mornings filled with laughter, fellowship, and, of course, great food! 🌟



CVM Invests in Resident Fitness

Stronger, Healthier, and Moving Forward

By Tomi Maruna, Director of Fitness and Wellness



Christian Village Communities has always recognized the importance of providing a high-quality fitness experience. One tangible way we have demonstrated this is with the recent equipment upgrades in the Renewal Fitness Center at The Christian Village at Mason. With state-of-the-art equipment now in place, we have taken an important step toward ensuring that our residents have the best possible tools to support their health, independence, and overall well-being.

Staying physically active is one of the most powerful ways to maintain strength, balance, and vitality as we age. We are constantly inspired by our residents, who understand that movement isn't just about exercise; it's about maintaining the ability to live life longer and more fully. Their dedication to staying active is a testament to their commitment to health.

The new fitness equipment has already made a noticeable impact. Residents are enjoying machines that are safer, more comfortable, and easier to use, allowing them to maximize their workouts with confidence. These upgrades also provide new opportunities for customized workouts, making it possible for individuals at all fitness levels to find exercises that meet their individual needs.

“Every day residents motivate each other, celebrating small and big victories, and embracing the camaraderie that makes exercise so much more than just a routine.”

Beyond the physical benefits, the Renewal Fitness Center continues to be a place of community, encouragement, and joy. Every day residents motivate each other, celebrating small and big victories, and embracing the camaraderie that makes exercise so much more than just a routine.

The Renewal Fitness Center is a no-cost amenity furnished for our residents as a part of their residency in our community. 🌟



70 Years of Blessings

By Matt Hilderbran, VP of Development

A 70th wedding anniversary is called a platinum anniversary. It's a significant milestone that many don't reach, but Hank and Nina Coyle have. "We were high school sweethearts," Nina says. Hank and Nina met during their junior year of high school after Nina moved to the area. When Nina showed up, she was "pretty and caught some attention," according to Hank. Hank remembers his friends telling him, "I bet you can't get a date with her." So, he asked her out. They were married at nineteen. The rest is history... seventy years of history!

Love has lasted 70 years because in Nina's words, "Hank is a wonderful husband, wonderful father, and has an amazing work ethic. He never gives up on a problem. He can fix anything." Hank says, "Nina is a great mother," and as he pauses to wipe tears from his eyes he says, "she's a great wife." With 70 years of marriage comes many blessings. At the top of the list are their four children. "In addition to our four children, we have ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. We are truly blessed," says Nina.

Over the years many hobbies have kept them busy. Hank was a so-called "jock" in high school. He would have gone on to play college football if it weren't for a hand injury. Nina has swung many clubs on the golf course. Hank has played in five US Industrial Championship softball tournaments for Procter & Gamble, a company where they were both employed for many years.

When it came to moving into The Christian Village at Mason eight years ago, they weren't initially planning to do it so soon. Hank told Nina, "Let's just go look at it." That turned into, "Let's just get it over with," and so they moved in. But Nina says, "It was the best thing we've done!" Hank remembers waking up early the first morning in their new Garden Home. He said, "I made myself a bowl of cereal, looked out the window to see two or three deer. I took that as a good sign!" Nina said, "There was a homey feeling at CVM, and we love the people."



Hank and Nina have always been people who have given back, desiring to build up their community and Christian Village Communities is no different. "I'm so glad to put our money in a place where we know it's helping people. We mainly love that people aren't asked to leave if they run out of money. It's the best use of our money." Hank and Nina are **Legacy Society members**, which entails designating an estate gift to the CBA Foundation following their death. "We love helping people and being a part of building this community." Christian Village Communities loves having Hank and Nina here and wishes them many more happy years together! ✝



Ways to Support Our Ministry and Make a Difference Today!



By Matt Hilderbran, VP of Development

The CBA Foundation engages others to provide needed resources through fundraising and educational programming. The money we raise is used to help support the residents and team members of Christian Village Communities (CVC), primarily through Compassionate Care and Charitable Giving. This month, we want to highlight Compassionate Care.

In many other senior living communities, if a resident can no longer make their monthly payments, they need to look for somewhere else to live. Because of Compassionate Care, this is not true at CVC. This is because our donors made it a priority to donate to Compassionate Care which supports qualifying residents so they can remain part of the CVC family without concern over unforeseen financial hardships.

It's easy to become a part of this philanthropic family and help take care of one another. You can make a gift by:

- Donating cash. Any gift of any amount makes an impact!
- Making a CVM entrance fee refund donation.
- Making a gift of other assets. Stocks, bonds, real estate, and other property that have grown in value make it possible to give a larger donation for less cost—and provide you with tax benefits.

You can also include the CBA Foundation in your future charitable plans. Ways to give that won't affect your financial situation today, and may save your loved ones from a significant tax burden, consist of:

- Including the CBA Foundation in your will or trust.
- Asking your family and friends to make a gift in your honor and memory.
- Donating retirement plan assets. Make a simple designation on your plan's beneficiary form.
- Naming the CBA Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Including the CBA Foundation as a beneficiary of a Garden Home entrance fee refund. ✝



411 Western Row Rd
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If you have an address change or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email amie.kocher@christianvillages.org



The Christian Benevolent Association does not discriminate on basis of race, sex, religion, age, qualified handicap, or veteran.

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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

