



Fall 2014

Linkage



GIVING BACK

LIFELONG DEVOTION TO SERVICE

PLUS

A NEW FUNDRAISER IS OVER THE EDGE
ERH PRESENTS "GLEN CAMPBELL—I'LL BE ME"

ERH

Episcopal Retirement Homes



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ON THE COVER:

From left: Marjorie P. Lee and Deupree House residents Dr. Roger Giesel, Grace Ulm, Joan Maechling, Philip Maechling and Dottie Cowan

Photograph by Gary Kessler

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Deupree House | Marjorie P. Lee

Affordable Living Communities

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Linkage is a resource to address issues and interests of older adults, providing a link between ERH's programs and the community. Since 1951, Episcopal Retirement Homes (ERH) has dedicated itself to improving the lives of older adults from all faiths through innovative, quality living environments and in-home and community-based services delivered by experienced and compassionate professionals.



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CELEBRATING ERH HUMBLE HEROES:

The Martindell Award

By Laura A. Hobson

This year, Brenda Parrett, 53, housekeeper at ERH's Shawnee Place in Springfield, Ohio, received the Martindell Award on September 3. "When they told me I had won," she relates, "I nearly fell on the floor. Tears came to my eyes."

An employee who goes above and beyond the call of duty in caring for the residents of ERH receives this distinguished recognition. The annual award recognizes outstanding service within the ERH community.

Nine residents nominated Parrett, describing her as hard-working, patient, helpful and a great cook. "To be honored meant the world to me," she says. Parrett also received a gift of \$1,000. The plaque containing the award certificate hangs prominently on her wall at home.

Former ERH Board Chair

Trish Martindell founded the award as a legacy in memory of her father, John Wahlberg. She was inspired by her father's caregivers and their devotion to service. Wahlberg, who resided at the former Deupree Health Center, spent his final years living with dignity, freedom, choice and purpose with the assistance of the compassionate and skilled ERH team.

In this second year for the award, there were more than 90 nominations of nonmanagement team members who exemplify person-centered values and attributes. Those nominated will receive a certificate as well as a token of appreciation. 

Above: Kathy Ison-Lind, Vice President of Affordable Living and In-Home Services; Brenda Parrett; Trish Martindell; and Joanna Baugh, Community Manager of Shawnee

Meals On Wheels Delivers Top Rating

DEUPREE HOUSE MEALS ON WHEELS program received an excellent rating from the Council on Aging in its annual audit for January through June of this year. The Council reviewed the program using established criteria and found no outages or errors, earning the program a stellar rating.

The Council audited everything from route sheets, which indicate proof of delivery of all meals billed, to client files, volunteer files, employee files, policy and procedure manual, temperature logs, kitchen production and truck inspection.

Headed by Sue Susskind, Deupree Meals On Wheels Coordinator, a team of nine people actively worked throughout the year to meet the audit's criteria with substantial attention to detail.

Susskind has nothing but accolades for her MOW team. "The employees are not here for a paycheck," Susskind says. "They really care about the people whom we serve." -L.H



Sue Susskind, Deupree Meals On Wheels Coordinator

Meet the Board

The Episcopal Retirement Homes (ERH) Board of Directors makes it a priority to serve the ERH mission: enriching the lives of older adults in a person-centered, innovative and spiritually based way.

“I am a true believer of ERH’s mission,” says Robin Smith, Chair of the Board and former Procter & Gamble IT professional. “I am giving my time and talents to spread that mission to as many older adults in our communities as possible.”

In each issue of Linkage, you’ll meet the dynamic and passionate volunteer board members who help drive ERH.

By Whitney Harrod Morris | Photos by Gary Kessler



Miles Schmidt

Board member

Board Committee he serves on: Strategic Planning

Former occupation: Retired executive of an emergency-vehicle manufacturing company

Areas of expertise: Broad background in business operations, finance, marketing and strategy.

Something people might not know about you: I spent over a year submerged in the Atlantic while serving in the Navy.

How long have you served on the Board? This is my second term.

Why do you volunteer on the Board? I have a particular interest in the great work ERH is doing in affordable living communities for older adults with limited incomes, such as providing chaplaincy services, transportation and wellness programs to residents. I also enjoy being around a group of very smart people on the Board who are committed to a good cause.

Most rewarding part: ERH’s progress in improving the lives of limited-income seniors as the organization expands its reach to over a thousand older adults through new communities within a three-hour radius of Cincinnati.



Ken Burkman

Deupree House representative

Former occupation: Retired accountant/auditor at Procter & Gamble; finance director of Procter & Gamble Philippines

Area of expertise: Accounting. I listen to the Board proceedings and make sure the interest of the residents is being attended to.

How long have you been on the Board? One year. I have lived with my wife Jill at ERH for seven years.

Most rewarding part: I enjoy observing other Board members. ERH is maintained as a viable financial organization. It is satisfying to Deupree residents that so many dedicated people are represented on the ERH Board.



Cece Mooney

2014 alternate Board member

Former occupation: Buyer in the 1950s and '60s for McAlpin's, a Cincinnati-based department store.

Area of expertise: Marketing

Something people may not know about you: I have chaired the committees for the Junior League Appalachian Festival, the Cincinnati Christmas Caravan and the Cincinnati Zoo art festival. I also served on the steering committee that brought the 1987 World Figure Skating championships to Cincinnati.

How long have you been on the Board? Almost a year. Next year I will serve as a resident board member.

Why do you volunteer on the Board? It's an interesting time with the growth and progress going on with ERH in light of all the current and upcoming changes in the marketplace. Also, my mother lived in Deupree House in the 1980s and loved it. My husband Tom has now moved to the Deupree Cottages where he is very content.

Most rewarding part: Learning about the huge scope of all the services and programs ERH is involved with.



Giving Back

*Lifelong Devotion
To Service Can
Continue At ERH*



by Marnie Hayutin

*photos by Gary Kessler;
Dr. Heimlich photo
by Wes Battoclette*

This generation of ERH residents has been giving back to their communities since they helped their parents plant Victory Gardens. They've founded charities, they've fought social injustice, they've eased suffering...and they're not about to stop now.

Residents of ERH are delighted to discover not only that they don't have to stop, but that it's especially easy to volunteer here.

"Our communities foster a culture of giving and are flooded with support for volunteerism from staff and fellow residents," notes Ken Paley, Vice President of Marketing. "Our residents get an added boost for their work because they are encouraged, supported and appreciated. This is the right environment to fill that desire for service."

What's more, the act of volunteering has intrinsic benefits, as well. A study commissioned by UnitedHealthcare and VolunteerMatch found a direct correlation between volunteering and improved physical health. Two-thirds of the volunteers surveyed said volunteering made them feel physically healthier, and 78 percent reported that it lowered stress levels.

Ready for some inspiration? Meet a few of the ERH residents who continue to enrich their communities.



Dottie Cowan

Marjorie P. Lee Resident

Tutored children at Kilgour School; volunteered at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

From academic tutoring, to working for the U.S. Census, to teaching new skills to adults, Dottie Cowan's commitment to volunteering has spanned her entire life.

"We all need so much fellowship," Cowan says. "I believe we must open ourselves up to other people."

Among many volunteer projects in retirement, Cowan tutored local students for 21 years at schools including Hyde Park's Kilgour School. She also

guided school groups through the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, an experience made richer for her because she and her husband, a clergyman, had lived and worked in the South during the time of integration and the civil rights movement.

"We did everything we could, but when we looked back, we realized that things weren't perfect yet," Cowan recalls. "So when I had this opportunity to go to the Freedom Center, I thought maybe I could add a little bit."

Cowan credits her volunteer work and her active 15 years at Marjorie P. Lee with extending her life.

"I think everybody is missing something if they don't volunteer," Cowan says. "It rejuvenates you."



Dr. Roger Giesel

Deupree House Resident

Teaches older adults how to use iPhones and iPads

Roger Giesel's passion for computers is helping his peers connect with their grandchildren. The iPhone and iPad classes Dr. Giesel teaches at Deupree House and through UC's OLLI program (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) are unlocking a whole new world for his fellow seniors.

"The best thing I've found is that they love to text," Dr. Giesel says of his students. "The kids and grandkids won't respond to e-mail, but they will to a text. They're texting all the time."

The technology is totally foreign to most, Dr. Giesel concedes, but he breaks it down over the course of eight sessions, covering everything from entering contacts, to sending and receiving photos, to using the iPhone as a GPS to find your way home.

It's slow going sometimes, but Dr. Giesel finds it incredibly rewarding. "I love to teach, and I love to teach technology," he says.

What's the best part? "Having them finally learn what they're doing and seeing them really get into it and love it."

By the way, even without technology Dr. Giesel is pretty good with grandchildren. He is a well-known local pediatrician who played Santa for 25 years at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



Philip & Joan Maechling

Deupree House Residents

Coordinate the Blanketed With Love program

Under the leadership of Philip and Joan Maechling, Deupree House residents have provided warm blankets to nearly 900 people since 2011. The Maechlings coordinate the Blanketed With Love program, which is an extension of the nonprofit organization founded by their granddaughters in Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Philip and Joan purchase fleece and prepare it by cutting fringe around the edges. Then, every Friday, residents gather to assemble the fleece into blankets, tying two pieces of fleece together by knotting the fringe. Each blanket requires approximately 524 knots. To date, the volunteers have tied more than 450,000 knots.

Blankets are donated to people in need through several organizations including The Center for Respite Care, which provides medical care for homeless men after they've been released from a hospital stay.

"The director told us one time that frequently when the men are moving off the streets they want to get rid of all their old street clothing. But she said they will never leave the blanket behind,"

Phil recalls. "That's the kind of thing that makes it a very rewarding charity."

Joan is particularly touched that all funding for the blanket project—more than \$14,000 so far—has come from Deupree House residents.

"We have never solicited funds, we've never asked for funds. People see what we're doing and they bring us a donation," Joan says.



Dr. Henry Heimlich

Deupree House Resident

Founder of the Heimlich Heroes educational program

In 1974, Dr. Henry Heimlich revolutionized medicine by discovering a technique to save people from choking. Today he continues to save lives through Heimlich Heroes, the educational program he founded to empower children to recognize the signs of choking and to teach them to respond.

"From grade 2 on up through grammar school, [Heimlich Heroes] started educating students on how and when to do the Heimlich maneuver," Dr. Heimlich says.

Providing videos and course materials, Heimlich Heroes teaches approximately 2 million children each year.

"They were initially teaching the Heimlich Maneuver in schools so the children would

know it when they got older," Dr. Heimlich notes, "but as a matter of fact, quite a few have already saved lives having learned it."



Grace Ulm

Marjorie P. Lee Resident

Knits hats for Crayons to Computers; volunteers at the Marjorie P. Lee Care Center

Grace Ulm has been using her needle skills to comfort children for decades. With her quilting club, she sewed about 100 small quilts that were donated to firefighters and police officers.

"When they were out on a call and a child was involved, they would wrap the child in the quilt, which made them feel better and gave them a sense of security," Ulm says.

Now, at Marjorie P. Lee, Ulm knits hats for Crayons to Computers' Keep Our Kids Warm Campaign. On Mondays, you'll also find her down in the Care Center, helping transport fellow residents to and from their memory care therapy.

For Ulm, connecting with other people and sharing her gifts is so much a part of her life that she hardly thinks of it as volunteering.

"It's fun!" she exclaims. "I've had fun with everything I've done. I think maybe I'm selfish. Maybe instead of volunteering I'm just enjoying myself." ✨



Leap of Faith

*Over The Edge
Fundraiser Offers An
Exhilarating Good Time*

By Val Previsch

Above: Kathy Ison-Lind, Vice President of Affordable Living and In-Home Services, went “Over the Edge” for affordable living at Shawnee Place in 2011. ERH is bringing the event to Cincinnati in 2015.

OVER THE EDGE, the summer fundraiser for Affordable Living communities at Episcopal Retirement Homes (ERH), will give new meaning to the words “leap of faith.” ERH supporters will take a step off the rooftop of the Central YMCA in downtown Cincinnati and rappel down the side of the building to raise money for ERH Affordable Living Communities.

The event is expected to raise roughly \$100,000 for enrichment activities such as fitness classes, transportation, spiritual services and care coordination for hundreds of limited-income seniors in ERH Affordable Living Communities throughout the region.

Approximately 100 participants are expected to raise \$1,000 each to be part of the experience of rappelling down the 11-story building, which is the future home for a new ERH affordable-living community. Roughly 65 new apartments designed for older adults are expected to open in 2016 on the upper floors of the YMCA. The residences will be managed by ERH.

The June 13, 2015, event is being organized through Over The Edge, a special events company that provides signature fundraising opportunities for nonprofits all over the world. For the thrill of rappelling over the edge of a local building, participants are asked to raise money for a chosen nonprofit.

“This gives ERH a way to engage the community in a way we’ve never done before,” says Maureen Gregory, Fund Development Manager of Affordable Liv-

ing. “We are hoping to get lots of local businesses to join in the fun. We will even have a ‘toss your boss’ category where employees can pay to see their boss rappel down the building.”

This is not the first time ERH has partnered with Over The Edge. A few years ago its nine-story community in Springfield Township was the site of a similar event sponsored by another charity. ERH Vice President for Affordable Housing and In-Home Services Kathy Ison-Lind took part in the adventure and says it was the thrill of a lifetime once she got over her initial anxiety.

“From the moment I met the OTE team, they were professional and very safety-conscious,” Ison-Lind says. “As they explained what to do and how the safety systems worked, I felt my fear melt away—until I had to take that first step off the building, that is. That was the hard part, letting go. But as all the ropes and safety features worked exactly as they said they would, I started to have fun. After I relaxed, I had a total blast going faster and slower and eventually spinning around and waving to the crowd below. It was exhilarating!”

Across the ERH network of communities, there is a commitment to bring social, physical and spiritual enrichment to residents, Gregory notes. The cost of such activities is often out of reach for these seniors, however, and government sources do not pay for the types of enrichment programs that ERH hopes to provide.

Fundraising through events such as Over The Edge allows ERH to bring these activities to seniors at an affordable cost. ✦



Sweet Harmony

*The Marjorie P. Lee Songbirds
Come Together In Unison*

BY MARNIE HAYUTIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY GARY KESSLER

Marjorie P. Lee residents have found a new way to connect with their neighbors. They're joining their voices in song. A new chorus group, the Marjorie P. Lee Songbirds, formed this year to blend in perfect harmony their common love of music and community.

"It's been a joy," says David Lowry, a Marjorie P. Lee resident for nine years. "It's the experience of putting your heart into something, and feeling that you're in it with a lot of other people, and you're making something beautiful."

Stop by the chapel some Friday afternoon, and you'll hear what Lowry means. As many as 25 residents gather each week for rehearsal, their joyous blend of voices creating a rich, bold sound for upbeat hymns. Sentimental refrains from George Gershwin and Irving Berlin are sweet, like dear old friends.

The singers are there to work. Chorus director Shirley Raut coaches them on where to take a breath to maintain the proper phrasing. She reminds them to keep their consonants precise and to avoid lazy slides in pitch. She shares a little history about the pieces they're singing.

"I want them to feel that this time here has been well spent and that they've learned something," says Raut, who has sung in choirs including the May Festival Chorus. She has also directed children's choirs for years in the Forest Hills School District. In addition to hymns, Raut chooses a lot of music from the '30s and '40s, as well as show tunes from favorites like "Oklahoma!" and "The Sound of Music." "Those are songs that are familiar to them, that they know."

The chorus is open to any resident. There are no auditions and no attendance requirement. Raut herself is a volunteer.

"We have quite a wide variety of ability and experience," Raut adds, "but they all want to be here. You don't always have that in a chorus."

In fact, the residents themselves formed this choir. New resident Lillian Dartnall began

inquiring about starting a choir just after she moved in last fall. Given the go-ahead by Debbie McLean, Director of Life Enrichment, Dartnall started recruiting.

"I asked everybody I passed in the hall: Do you sing?" Dartnall recalls. "People were very willing, and we started in January."

“

I want them to feel that this time here has been well spent and that they've learned something.

—Shirley Raut,
Marjorie P. Lee Songbirds
Chorus Director

”

Dartnall then left town in February for a winter visit to Florida. She was delighted to discover upon her return that the group was still meeting.

"Everybody seems to love it," Dartnall says. "I'm really thrilled. I've sung in choirs all my life, and this time it's wonderful to still be able to be doing it."

"I have been singing hymns all my life, but I've never been in an organized choir before," Lowry adds. "I came at first just to sit in the back and listen to this choir. I thought, 'Gee, there are all kinds

of people here. I think I could probably do that.'"

What part does he sing? "Melody!" he jokes, noting that he probably has a voice for bass. "I don't do parts. I just belt it out, and nobody complains."

Lowry says the experience has enriched his appreciation of music in other aspects of his life. "I notice now when I'm singing hymns in the congregation at church, I sing better than I did before. I know more about the music, about the timing, the phrasing. I notice the carryover there."

The Songbirds have had a few performances. They periodically hold open rehearsals, which take place upstairs in the event center during the chorus's regular rehearsal time on Friday afternoon. Guests are given songbooks and encouraged to sing with the group. A few times a year, the chorus also provides special music for the Episcopal service held at Marjorie P. Lee on Sundays. But performing is not really the primary goal.

"We're not trying to be a prize-winning chorus," Raut says. "I just want each rehearsal to be something they look forward to."

And, indeed, they do.

"It's the highlight of the week," Lowry says. ✨

Opposite: Shirley Raut, Choir Director, leads the Marjorie P. Lee Songbirds at a recent rehearsal. The choir was formed by resident Lillian Dartnall.

First in Cincinnati

By Rick Bird

ERH Premieres An Uplifting Film That Chronicles Glen Campbell's Struggles With Alzheimer's

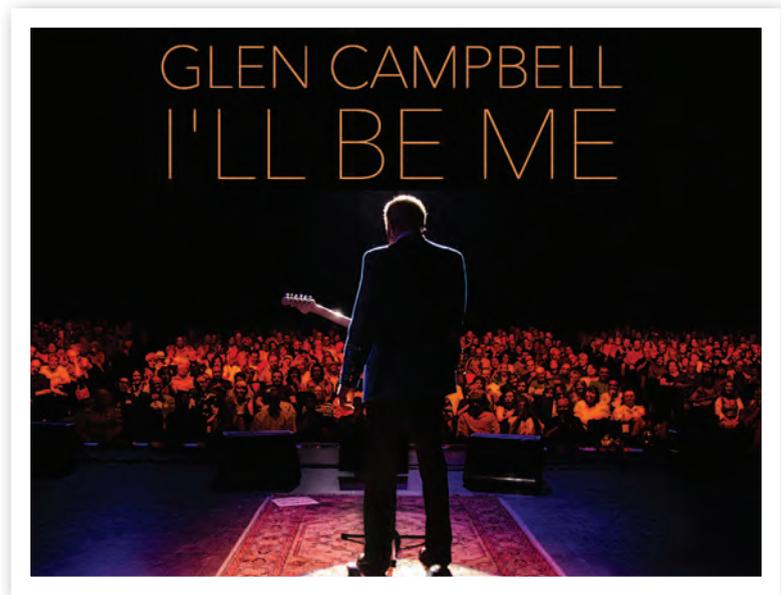
Ginny Uehlin, Administrator of Health Services at Marjorie P. Lee, says families and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients often relate one important message: Don't allow the disease to define the person. Instead, honor everything the person has been.

Legendary country singer Glen Campbell is one inspirational example of a person fighting Alzheimer's who wasn't going to let the disease define his legacy. In 2011, six months after he was diagnosed, he went on tour.

Campbell's "The Goodbye Tour" was supposed to last just a few weeks. It went on for almost two years as the singer played dozens of dates. It was also filmed for a documentary.

In the film, producer James Keach is seen reminding Campbell that he would be the star of this movie. Campbell simply responds, "I'll be me."

"Glen Campbell—I'll Be Me" gets its Cincinnati debut Nov. 7 at the Kenwood Theatre, running for a week. The film is being brought to town by Episcopal Retirement Homes and the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Cincinnati Chapter. (Find show times at www.kenwoodtheatre.com.)



"ERH is bringing this documentary to Cincinnati to draw attention to the challenges we all face in the battle against Alzheimer's disease," says Doug Spitler, ERH CEO. "Glen Campbell and his family set an example, and the movie brings home the idea that those who are stricken are not completely lost."

"I would hope the one big takeaway from the film is that people did not see Glen Campbell as a man with dementia, but saw him as a singer, and they honored that," Uehlin notes. "We sometimes miss that with people who have Alzheimer's."

Spitler says the film is important in building awareness of

how Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia affect not only the patient, but the family, caregivers and others around them.

ERH is in the forefront of memory-care support in our region. Indeed, its person-centered care approach is well-suited to provide memory-care services, enabling staff to interact with residents with a higher level of empathy and understanding.

Memory-care support is offered within the Marjorie P. Lee senior living community, where ERH has been known for its high-quality standards and track record of innovative success.

It offers a secure memory-care support wing and has more than

two-dozen participants in a long-term care area with acute skilled-nursing care.

Most exciting, ERH has been selected as the second organization in the country to pilot a possible breakthrough therapy, known as SAIDO, for Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

The SAIDO method involves a specially trained supporter who engages residents, known as "learners," in 30-minute sessions conducted in a positive, supportive environment. Pioneered by Japanese researchers and refined over the last 11 years, participants have shown marked improvement with the therapy. And with recent developments in brain-scan technology, researchers know which exercises have an impact and which don't. Studies show they are much more engaged in daily activities, eat better, are more socially engaged with caregivers, family and friends, and are generally more optimistic about life and daily living.

"We've seen residents speaking up for themselves and asking for things, which is something they didn't previously do," Uehlin says.

ERH is encouraged by the early results of the pilot and will continue to test the therapy before introducing it on a larger scale.

The Glen Campbell documentary is being hailed as a film with teachable moments for all families dealing with dementia.

The movie will make viewers laugh and will make them cry. It is a very personal film, even

showing a doctor breaking the news of the diagnosis to Campbell and Kim, his wife of 31 years. We learn how Campbell's wife, children and his band and bus driver become part of the caregiving process throughout the tour. And the "Rhinestone Cowboy" gives heroic concert performances throughout.

Campbell's fight against the disease is inspiring. At one point he proudly says, "I gave it a left hook."

Campbell recorded a song specifically written for the film, "I'm Not Gonna' Miss You," available as part of a CD release of the soundtrack. Campbell's farewell tour included a Feb. 12, 2012, performance at the Grammys. His final concert was in Napa, Calif., Nov. 30, 2012. In April of this year, Campbell's Alzheimer's took a turn for the worse, and the 78-year-old singer is now a resident at a long-term care community near his Nashville home.

"Any time someone with notoriety is able to share their struggles with the disease, it helps those involved," Uehlin says. "People realize they are not alone."

Uehlin acknowledges Campbell's passion for continuing on with his life's work is not something everyone may be able to do, given that the disease progresses differently. Regardless of individual situations, Uehlin says there is a clear lesson for all in Campbell's film: "Glen Campbell and his family are an inspiration for their courage and willingness to share their journey." 

“
Glen Campbell and his family are an inspiration for their courage and willingness to share their journey.

—Ginny Uehlin,
Administrator of Health
Services, Marjorie P. Lee

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Jack Kirby



Step into Jack Kirby's Deupree House apartment and you will quickly realize that he has an abundance of talent as well as a reputation as a bit of a Renaissance man. His interests are rooted in his personal history and have grown since retirement. Kirby is an avid golfer with eight holes-in-one; he is a master gardener; he's an astronomer who carries around his computerized telescope for stargazing; he's a craftsman who built his own furniture and designed and built his former Turpin Hills home; he's a painter who exhibited his art at Deupree House in April. Kirby's daughter, Karen Durand, adds swimming, studying the American Civil War and quantum physics, and personal finance to the list. "Dad is very active, and he's always adding to his knowledge," Durand says.

When Kirby moved to Deupree House in 2012, he was well-acquainted with the community. It was home for family members, including his wife's aunt, Louise Blank, and cousin, Sally (Sarah) Blank Greenholz.

"I was familiar with this place because I was taking care of finances for my wife's cousin when she was a resident. When I decided it was time to move, I considered a few other places, but Deupree House was my first choice. I had visited many times, and I liked what I saw." Deupree House is now home for his sister and brother-in-law, Norma and Jack Grosse, too.

Supporting the mission and programs of ERH is also a family matter. The Meals On Wheels office was generously donated in honor of Sally Greenholz, who had volunteered her

time to the program. In recent years, Durand carried on the tradition as a Meals On Wheels volunteer and remains a current donor. Kirby has given a gift in support of SAIDO, the ERH pilot program to enrich the lives of residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

"During my wife Alberta's illness with Alzheimer's, I experienced firsthand the stress of the illness on caregivers," he says. "The SAIDO program shows promise for delaying the terrible affects of the disease, and I am fortunate to be able to make a donation to ERH in support of this program. I want to do anything I can to help make the patients' lives more meaningful and ease the burden on caregivers."

Kirby's generosity extends to making a Charitable Gift Annuity to ERH. "I'm glad to help those that need assistance," he explains.

While there is a tax benefit, it was not the motivation for his gift. "I trust ERH to make good use of the money. ERH will spend the money better than the government would, and I can have some control over where my money goes."

Jack Kirby has enriched the ERH Community by being both a resident and a donor. We are grateful to have him as a part of our family at Deupree House. ❖

Above: Jack Kirby, a Deupree House resident, and his daughter Karen Durand find many ways to offer their time and support to ERH.

ERH SAYS GOODBYE
TO A GOOD FRIEND



Robert S. Edwards Jr.

(1933–2014)

Along with his family and the rest of the community, Episcopal Retirement Homes (ERH) staff and board were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our most dedicated supporters. Bob Edwards served faithfully as a member of the ERH Board of Directors from 1999 until 2007.

During his tenure, Bob was Vice Chair for Leadership with responsibility for recruiting board members who represented the talent and expertise needed to keep the board balanced in terms of backgrounds and skill sets. “I credit Bob’s leadership for guiding the Board in strengthening its leadership during his years of service with ERH,” says Doug Spitler, President and CEO of ERH. “Bob was a faithful and dedicated supporter of our mission.”

Bob honed his business and leadership skills with a long career that took him from sales and marketing in the apparel industry to being an advisor in the financial services industry. During the mid-1990s, Bob served as Chairman of the Board of the FreeStore/FoodBank and founded its most popular fundraiser—the Rubber Duck Regatta. Over time, the regattas raised \$8.5 million, or the equivalent of 25 million meals for the region’s needy and hungry people. Bob was honored many times by many organizations over the years for his service to the community. Most notably, in 2010 he earned the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Jefferson Award, considered by many to be the Nobel Prize for public service.

ERH was fortunate to have Bob serve on the Investment Committee from 2011–2014 and also on the ad hoc In-Home Services Committee from 2008–2011. In 2011 he joined the ERH Foundation as a Board member, and his second term began in 2014.

Bob was a true friend to ERH, and he generously shared his time, talents and many community connections, which were helpful to both the Board and management of our organization. For this and many other kindnesses, we are grateful for Bob’s life and wish his family only the best as they mourn the loss of their loved one. 

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that changed millions of lives

tuesdays with
Morrie

an old man, a young man,
and life's greatest lesson

Mitch Albom

Featuring keynote Mitch Albom,
bestselling author of

Tuesdays with Morrie,
who will share his story
of life's greatest lesson.

Living with Purpose, Hope, & Healing

Save the date
Saturday, February 28th
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Conference to be held in Cincinnati.



Parish Health Ministry
A Service of Episcopal Retirement Homes